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WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GRANEN

WHEN A MODERN HOME INSPIRES TALK OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS AND DINOSAURS, THERE IS SOMETHING RADICAL GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES FAR BEYOND THE USE OF GLASS, CONCRETE AND STEEL. And everyone involved in the building of this contemporary gem nestled into a lakeside setting in Seattle points back to the one element that cemented the home's progressive outcome: the homeowner, Anne Croco.

Architect Stuart Silk and design principal Michael Troyer say she was a dream client. "This is the fourth home we've designed for her and a true departure for her stylistically. She wanted a stripped-down environment and minimal surroundings," says Silk, who, along with Troyer, joined forces with the firm's project manager Michael McFadden on the residence. Croco blames her modern turn on her past, as she studied

**ARCHITECTURE** Stuart Silk, AIA, and Michael Troyer,

Stuart Silk Architects Limited PS

**HOME BUILDER** John Hoedemaker, Schuchart/Dow

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** Mike Doyle, Hortiscape NW, Inc.

**BEDROOMS** 3 **BATHROOMS** 3 **SQUARE FEET** 2,677





#### STEP SHOW

A skylight illuminates a Stephen Galloway diptych in the stairwell. The glow also washes soft light over the glass wall panels from Distinctive Glass, as well as the poured-in-place concrete by Westlake Concrete.



**STRONG FOUNDATION**  
Stained clear cedar from Sound Siding and Firestone metal panels from Andgar Corporation intermingle with architectural concrete to form the sophisticated mix of materials on the exterior of the home.

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design during the 1970s when modernism was enjoying a spate of popularity. "Suddenly, so many of the contemporary products I was seeing felt good to me," she explains, attributing the austere impulse to her state of mind. "I am entering a new era of keeping things simple in my life."

Though she was ensconced in the French countryside when construction was underway, Croco was highly involved. The team placed a camera on site so that she could be part of the action. Builder John Hoedemaker marveled at Croco's savvy, as her input from so far away was spot-on. "Her level of sophistication in terms of understanding what we were doing made the process wonderful," says Hoedemaker, who worked with Chris Lange on the build. "The word 'collaboration' is often used to describe projects, but with this one it was fitting."

**DESIGN COLLECTIVE**

The custom hearth in the living room was designed using pre-cast concrete from Dogpaw Design, while blackened steel surrounds the Montigo fireplace. The homeowner paired a Living Divani sofa from Limn with a Tord Boontje table by Fiam, Marcel Wanders' end tables for Cappellini and Flexform chairs.

**LIGHT WEIGHT**

The main entry door—custom steel and glass by Argent Fabrication—pivots open, its design allowing for the maximum infusion of light. The design team wanted the home to be quiet yet richly rewarding to the eye, so light quality was an important consideration throughout.

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Their efforts birthed an open, airy home with infusions of soft light and pale tones interrupted only by occasional pops of color, which Silk says were born of Croco's impishness. "She's a bit of a troublemaker!" he quips. "She brought in an Hermès purse and said, 'I want this orange in the house!'" Bright hues in the art express her wishes, as does the lacquered glow coating the top of the kitchen cabinetry, which is visible when descending the stairs and from the reflection emanating up to the ceiling.

**ON LOCATION**

The home is set into the landscape as if it had risen naturally from the foundations of its hillside perch. Fleetwood sliding glass doors from Solarium Skylight open the home onto its surroundings.



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The centerpiece on the first floor is a transparent sculptural staircase, which Silk calls the star of the home. "We wanted it to be very visual and present but we didn't want it to overwhelm so the materials were thoughtfully considered," he explains, noting the wood treads and the dark steel as examples of their studied choices. "We brought a beach feel to the interiors with the weathered textures and bleached tones," says Troyer. "But ease was also paramount, so we concentrated on a nice marriage of warm whites and soft materials."

The home's finishes and color palette got an added boost courtesy of Croco's background in design, and input from Seattle designer Michael McQuiston. And she turned to contemporary art and design retailer Limn to help her source the pieces she selected for her new space—Eric Fassett, Limn's showroom manager at the time, played a significant role in aiding her.

**HEARTY CUISINE**  
Poltrona Frau barstools from Limn surround an island in the kitchen, outfitted with GE, Miele, Sub-Zero and Viking appliances from Albert Lee Appliance. A CaesarStone backsplash pops against cabinetry by Interior Environments and flooring from Advanced Floor Design. A Catellani & Smith chandelier imparts whimsy.



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Outside, landscape designer Mike Doyle took the home's quietude and gave it greater depth. "We decided to respond to the site in a geological sense—considering the time when the last ice floe came through," he explains. "Our aim was to create an ancient glacial meadow." Ginkgo and metasequoia were chosen because they have survived since the time dinosaurs roamed. The latter was thought to be extant only in fossilized form until a British expedition to China uncovered a live specimen during the 1940s.

"Stuart and I worked with metasequoia on a project in China and felt it would be perfect to bring the spirit of our plans to fruition with Anne's home," Doyle says. "She understood that we were striving to create a garden that spoke of man's link to the past, eternal evolution and our need to find those ancient echoes." **L**

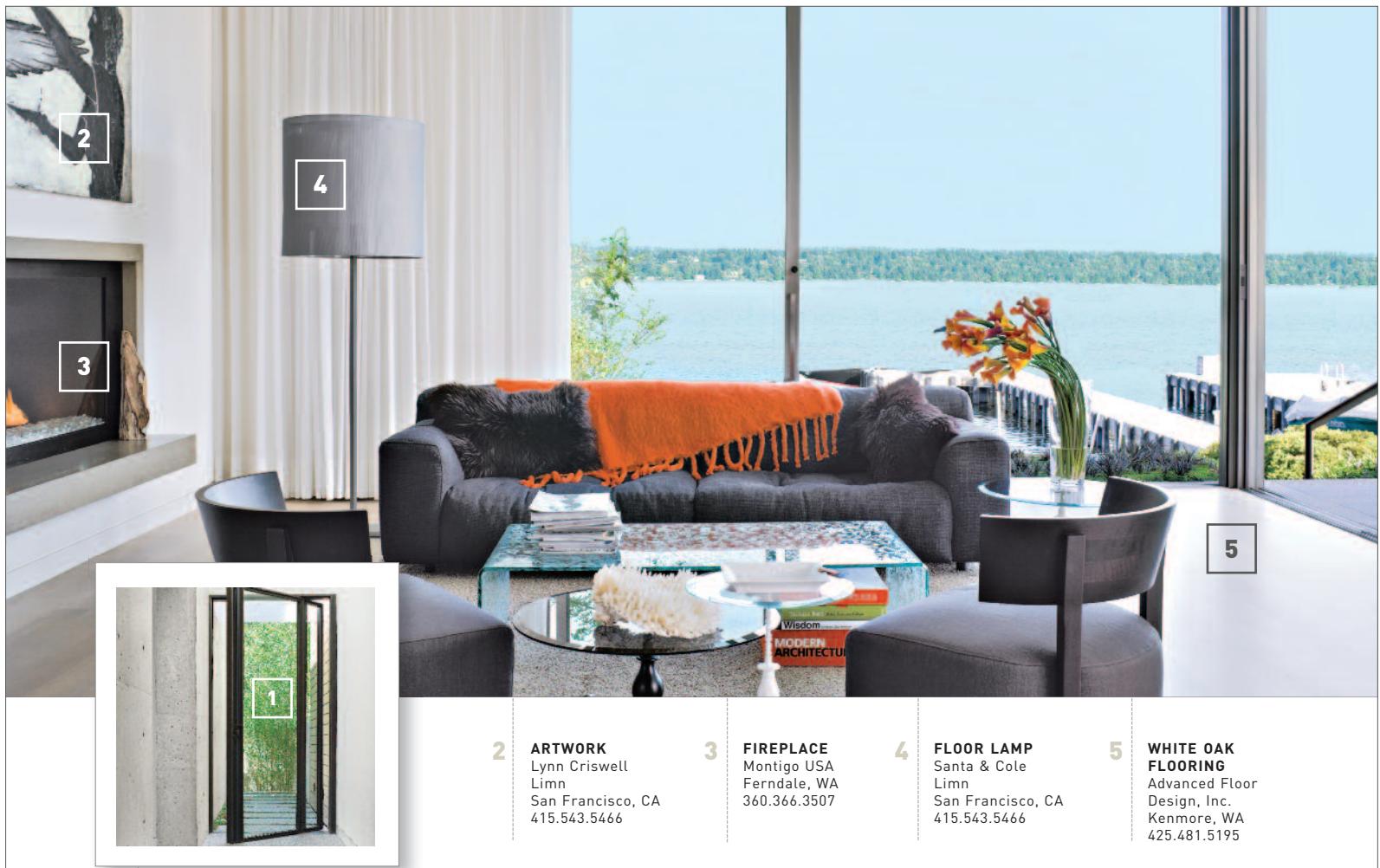
#### HOT SEAT

Ipe decking brings the exterior "room" the weathered feel that the team was looking to achieve. Custom Firestone metal panels surround the fireplace from Vermont Castings. Paola Lenti's chair is a geographically sophisticated perch for moments spent in front of the fire.



#### SLEEP WEAR

A hand-painted Timorous Beasties wallcovering gives the master bedroom tone-on-tone sophistication, an ideal backdrop for Poltrona Frau's bed dressed in Matteo linens from Red Ticking. Surprise elements are an antique English ladies' chair and a floor lamp by De La Espada's Autoban. Lynn Criswell's painting pops with color.



**1** ENTRY DOOR  
Argent Fabrication  
Seattle, WA  
206.438.0068

ARCHITECTURE Stuart Silk Architects Limited PS

HOME BUILDER Schuchart/Dow

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Hortiscape NW, Inc.

**2** ARTWORK  
Lynn Criswell  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**3** FIREPLACE  
Montigo USA  
Ferndale, WA  
360.366.3507

**4** FLOOR LAMP  
Santa & Cole  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**5** WHITE OAK  
FLOORING  
Advanced Floor  
Design, Inc.  
Kenmore, WA  
425.481.5195

**APPLIANCES**  
GE, Miele,  
Sub-Zero, Viking  
Albert Lee Appliance  
Tukwila, WA  
206.433.1110

**ARCHITECTURE**  
Stuart Silk Architects  
Limited PS  
Seattle, WA  
206.728.9500

**BARSTOOLS**  
Poltrona Frau  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**BEDDING**  
Matteo  
Red Ticking  
Seattle, WA  
206.322.9890

**BEDROOM  
AREA RUG**  
Grand Splendid  
Seattle, WA  
866.788.4289

**BEDROOM  
FLOOR LAMP**  
Autoban  
De La Espada  
New York, NY  
212.625.1039

**BLACK AND WHITE  
END TABLES**  
Cappellini  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**CABINETRY**  
Custom  
Interior Environments  
Seattle, WA  
206.432.8800

**CONCRETE**  
Westlake Concrete  
Seattle, WA  
206.438.0065

**CUSTOM STAIRCASE**  
U.S. Starcraft  
Seattle, WA  
206.762.0607

One Step Ahead  
Bothell, WA  
425.487.1869

**DINING CHAIRS,  
BLACK**  
Moooi  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**DINING CHAIRS,  
CREAM**  
Cassina  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**DINING ROOM  
ARTWORK**  
Tony Scherman  
Winston Wächter  
Fine Art  
Seattle, WA  
206.652.5855

**DINING TABLE**  
Arco  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**DRAPERYES**

Sam  
Yassalino  
Seattle, WA  
206.762.6722

**FLOOR SCULPTURES**  
Gervasoni  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**GLASS RAILING  
& WALL**  
Distinctive Glass, Inc.  
Lynnwood, WA  
425.775.1161

**HOME BUILDER**  
Schuchart/Dow  
Seattle, WA  
206.633.3003

**KITCHEN  
CHANDELIER**  
Catellani & Smith  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**KITCHEN  
COUNTERTOPS**  
CaesarStone  
Paramatrix Stone, Inc.  
Federal Way, WA  
253.941.5420

**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE**  
Hortiscape NW, Inc.  
Everett, WA  
425.348.5300

**LIVING ROOM  
AREA RUG**  
Limited Edition  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**LIVING ROOM  
FIREPLACE MANTEL**  
Custom  
Dogpaw Design  
Seattle, WA  
206.706.0099

**OUTDOOR  
FIREPLACE SURROUND**  
Custom  
Andgar Corporation  
Ferndale, WA  
360.366.9900

**OUTDOOR  
FURNITURE**  
Paola Lenti  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**PLANTERS**  
Serralunga  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**ROOF**  
Siplast Terapro  
Commercial  
Industrial Roofing  
Mukilteo, WA  
425.423.0900

**SIDING**  
Sound Siding  
Kent, WA  
253.639.8728

**SLIDING GLASS  
DOORS & WINDOWS**  
Fleetwood Windows  
& Doors  
Solarium Skylight, Inc.  
Kenmore, WA  
425.402.9000

**SOFA**  
Living Divani  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466

**STAIRCASE  
ARTWORK**  
Stephen Galloway  
Limn  
San Francisco, CA  
415.543.5466